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(54) Uplink timing synchronization and access control

Taktsynchronisierung sowie Zugriffsregelung in der Aufwärtsrichtung

Synchronisation d'horloge et réglage d'accès dans le sens montant

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- **WAHLQVIST M ET AL: "Time synchronization in the uplink of an OFDM system" VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, 1996. MOBILE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE HUMAN RACE., IEEE 46TH ATLANTA, GA, USA 28 APRIL-1 MAY 1996, NEW YORK, NY, USA,IEEE, US, 28 April 1996 (1996-04-28), pages 1569-1573, XP010162657 ISBN: 0-7803-3157-5**

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Description

Related Application

[0001] The present invention is related to the invention described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/503,041 issued as US patent US 6,922,388 and corresponding to European patent publication EP-A-1124348.

Field Of The Invention

[0002] The present invention relates generally to wireless communication systems and more particularly to techniques for implementing uplink timing synchronization and access control in a multi-access wireless communication system.

Background Of The Invention

[0003] Orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) has been recently proposed as a multi-access scheme for use in the next generation cellular wireless systems. A critical issue in the design of these systems is the requirement of strict timing synchronization and access control. Although timing synchronization and access control techniques have been extensively studied and many such techniques are known in the art, synchronization and access control in an OFDM multi-user environment presents a number of unique challenges not adequately addressed by conventional techniques.

[0004] For example, unlike other multi-user systems, mobiles in OFDM systems generally cannot be synchronized individually. Therefore, in order to maintain in-cell orthogonality and avoid intersymbol interference (ISI), OFDM transmission often requires that all signal paths from all mobiles arrive at a given base station synchronized to within a specified cyclic extension of the base station sampling period. Consequently, OFDM timing synchronization necessitates some form of coordination and feedback amongst the users in a cell.

[0005] Additionally, since OFDM synchronization errors must be absorbed into the above-noted cyclic extension, synchronization errors must be much smaller than the symbol period. However, this fractional symbol timing accuracy is difficult to obtain from regular OFDM data symbols. This is due to the fact that OFDM data symbols typically comprise linearly modulated discrete tones whose periods can be as large as the symbol period. Accurately estimating timing from such narrowband signals can be difficult.

[0006] A need therefore exists for improved timing synchronization and access control techniques for use in OFDM systems.

[0007] EP 0760564 is directed to a system which utilizes an entirely separate random access channel to communicate an uplink access signal from a mobile station to a base station. In this reference, regular uplink data transmission between mobile stations and the base station occurs in "other channels ... that carry modulated information," such as the Dedicated Information Channel (DICH), as is stated at page 6, lines 52-55. It can be seen in FIG. 6 of EP 0760564 that the random access channel (RACH) is entirely separate from the DICH channels of mobile stations denoted User 1 and User 2. Thus, EP 0760564 provides uplink random access techniques that, when applied to a given mobile station, do not involve any partial or complete suspension of regular uplink data transmission from any other mobile station.

[0008] U.S. Patent No. 5,430,760 discloses another approach in which an uplink access signal is transmitted by a given mobile station without any partial or complete suspension of regular uplink data transmission from any other mobile station.

Summary of the Invention

[0009] Methods and apparatus according to the present invention are set out in the independent claims, to which the reader is now referred. Preferred features are laid out in the dependent claims.

[0010] The invention provides improved timing synchronization and access control techniques particularly well suited for use in the uplink channel of an orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) multi-access wireless system. In accordance with the invention, mobiles transmit certain timing and access signals in dedicated timing and access intervals. The timing and access intervals may occur regularly within an uplink data stream, and all uplink data transmission may be suspended during these intervals. The suspension of data transmission allows pre-specified, wideband timing and access signals to be used.

[0011] More particularly, the use of dedicated timing and access intervals in accordance with the invention allows timing synchronization and access control to be separated from data communications. This separation permits timing and access to use signaling which is different than that of data communication, and eliminates interference between these communications. For example, timing and access signals can be allocated wider bandwidths than data signals so that the mobile timing can be estimated more easily from the timing and access signals. Also, by using dedicated timing and access intervals, "new" mobiles, i.e., mobiles attempting an initial access to a given base station, which are generally not timing synchronized or power controlled, do not disrupt the data traffic during their access attempts.

[0012] In an illustrative embodiment, each base station in an OFDM wireless system synchronizes its downlink and uplink timing. The downlinks and uplinks of different base stations need not be synchronized. A mobile desiring uplink access with a given base station starts with an open-loop timing synchronization by synchronizing its transmission timing to the received downlink. This open-loop downlink synchronization automatically synchroniz-

es the uplink to within the round-trip propagation delay between the base station and mobile.

[0013] After open-loop synchronization, the mobile can attempt to access an uplink channel and improve the uplink synchronization. For this purpose, the mobile selects one signal from a designated set of pre-specified access signals, and transmits the selected signal in any of the timing and access intervals. In each timing and access interval, the base station searches for the presence of one or more of the access signals. If the access signal is detected and the access is granted, the base station can transmit an acknowledgment in a reserved downlink channel. The acknowledgment may contain initial uplink and downlink channel assignments along with initial timing and power corrections. The mobile can then begin call initialization on the assigned channels.

[0014] An important feature of the invention is that the access signals may be made generic in the sense that neither the mobile nor the service being requested is identified in the access signal itself. All identification and call initialization is performed on assigned channels after the acknowledgment is granted. Advantageously, this two-stage procedure keeps transmission in a set of random-access, asynchronous timing and access intervals to a minimum. Additionally, using generic access signals in designated intervals reduces the search space for the base station.

[0015] After the initial channel acquisition and timing synchronization, mobiles continue to perform re-synchronization for the duration of their connection with the same base station. For re-synchronization, mobiles transmit pre-determined timing re-synchronization signals to the base station in the timing and access intervals. The base station measures the arrival time of the signal, and sends appropriate timing corrections to the mobile. The continual re-synchronization allows the mobiles to track clock drifts and changes in the propagation delay from the mobile to the base station.

[0016] In general, mobiles need not re-synchronize every timing and access interval. Consequently, only a limited number of mobiles need to be re-synchronized in each interval. Reducing the number of mobiles synchronized in each interval allows the mobiles to use timing signals with wider bandwidth, while also freeing up additional bandwidth for access signals.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

[0017]

FIG. 1 shows an exemplary arrangement of timing and access intervals in an illustrative embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 shows a mobile uplink access and synchronization system in accordance with the invention; and

FIG. 3 shows a base station uplink access and synchronization system in accordance with the invention.

Detailed Description Of The Invention

[0018] The present invention will be illustrated below in conjunction with an exemplary multiple access wireless communication system based on orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM). It should be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to use with any particular type of wireless communication system.

[0019] Signal construction, detection and estimation techniques suitable for use in conjunction with the present invention are described in the above-cited U.S. Patent Application No. 09/503,041.

Timing and Access Intervals

[0020] In accordance with the invention, mobiles transmit certain pre-specified, wideband timing and access signals in designated timing and access intervals. The timing and access intervals occur regularly within an uplink data stream, and all uplink data transmission is suspended during these intervals.

[0021] The timing and access intervals are dedicated in the sense that regular uplink data transmission is suspended in the intervals. The use of the dedicated intervals permits the data and timing to use different signaling, and prevents new mobiles that have not yet synchronized from interfering with synchronized data transmission.

[0022] The locations of the timing and access intervals within the uplink data stream should be known to all mobiles desiring uplink access or synchronization. For this purpose, the timing and access intervals can be placed at fixed, possibly periodic, locations in the uplink frames.

[0023] The frequency and size of the intervals represent basic design parameters. More frequent intervals permit a larger number of access attempts and a greater rate of re-synchronization. Larger intervals allow for longer access signals which can improve the detection and estimation accuracy. However, since there is no uplink data transmission during the timing and access intervals, the size and frequency of the intervals represent a direct overhead on the uplink data bandwidth.

[0024] A timing and access system using the above-noted dedicated intervals will be described in conjunction with the following three stages of a mobile's uplink communication: 1) initial open-loop synchronization; 2) access and initial uplink synchronization; and 3) uplink re-synchronization. Each of these uplink communication stages will be described in detail below.

Initial Open-Loop Synchronization

[0025] In open-loop synchronization, the mobile identifies a base station to communicate with, establishes

downlink synchronization, and approximately synchronizes the uplink. In particular, after conducting the open-loop synchronization, the mobiles will be able to approximately locate the timing and access intervals.

[0026] A mobile desiring access begins by identifying if a carrier is available in its area, and if so, synchronizes its receiver to the downlink from an appropriate base station. In accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the invention, the mobile initially synchronizes its transmit timing to its receive timing. In addition, every base station in the illustrative embodiment synchronizes its uplink and downlink timing. There is no need in such a system for different base stations to synchronize their uplink or downlink with one another.

[0027] An important aspect of the initial open-loop synchronization is that, after the mobile has synchronized its transmit and receive timing to the base station downlink, the mobile uplink will be automatically initially synchronized to the base station uplink with an error of at most one round trip propagation delay. This open-loop synchronization accuracy is not intended to be sufficient for the data transmission. It is only intended to provide an approximate level of synchronization adequate to begin the access procedure. In particular, since the timing and access intervals occur at fixed points within the uplink stream, mobiles which have completed the open-loop synchronization will be able to locate the timing and access intervals within the round-trip propagation delay.

[0028] The particular procedure used for this initial downlink synchronization will not be described in detail herein. It is assumed in the illustrative embodiment that each base station constantly transmits some form of downlink pilot tones from which mobiles can acquire the carrier frequency, and the downlink symbol and frame timing. This downlink synchronization may be performed with standard phase lock loops and other devices in a conventional manner, e.g., using well-known techniques such as those described in S. Gupta, "Phase-Locked Loops," Proceedings IEEE, Vol. 63, pp. 291-306, February 1975; W. Lindsey and C. Chie, "A survey of digital phase-locked loops," Proceedings IEEE, Vol. 69, pp. 410-432, 1981; L. Franks, "Synchronization subsystems: analysis and design," Digital Communications, Satellite/Earth Station Engineering, K. Feher, ed.,, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1981; H. Meyr and G. Ascheid, "Synchronization in Digital Communications," New York, NY: Wiley Interscience, 1990; and J. Proakis, "Digital Communications," New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 3rd ed., 1995.

[0029] For the purpose of the open-loop synchronization, it is assumed that any mobile, after listening to the pilots, can select a base station, acquire the downlink timing from the base station, and tune its uplink transmitter timing to the downlink with no timing errors.

[0030] Note that downlink synchronization can be conducted without having mobiles transmit any data to the base station. Consequently, mobiles can maintain open-loop synchronization, even when the channel access is not immediately required, or after a channel use is completed. In this way, the open-loop re-synchronization does not need to be repeated in the case of multiple channel accesses. This will reduce the access latency for infrequently transmitting mobiles.

Access Control

[0031] After the initial open-loop synchronization, the mobile is ready to acquire and refine the synchronization of uplink and downlink channels. A mobile that wishes to acquire an uplink channel transmits one of a set of designated access signals during a timing and access interval. In each timing and access interval, the base station searches for the presence of one or more of the access signals. The detection of an access signal indicates an access attempt from some mobile.

[0032] After an access signal has been successfully detected, base station access control logic determines if the access can be granted. Also, the base station can estimate the arrival time and power of the received signal. From the arrival time, the base station can estimate the initial timing error of the mobile. This timing error will be error from the open-loop synchronization, which is the round-trip propagation delay between the mobile and base station.

[0033] If the access is detected and granted, the base station transmits an access acknowledgment back to the mobile in a reserved downlink channel. The location of the downlink channel for the acknowledgments should be known to the mobile. The access acknowledgment can also contain a timing and power correction, initial uplink and downlink channel assignments, and possibly other call set-up information. After receiving the access acknowledgment, the mobile can adjust its timing and power accordingly and begin communication on the assigned channels.

[0034] Due to insufficient power or channel fading, the access signal may not be detected. Also, even if detected, the base station may decide not to grant the access if resources are not available. If the access is denied or not detected, the base station can transmit a negative acknowledgment or simply not transmit any acknowledgment.

[0035] Access control logic and the general problem of scheduling resources are well-understood in the art and therefore will not be described in detail herein. However, accesses should not be granted if the base station believes the timing has not been sufficiently accurately estimated for the mobile to begin with proper timing synchronization. One way to determine whether the timing estimate is sufficiently accurate is to check that the received signal power of the access signal is sufficiently high.

[0036] Note that the access signals that the mobiles transmit are generic, in the sense that the mobile or the services being requested are not identified in the access signal itself. Mobiles conduct their identification, authen-

tication and any other call set-up on the assigned channels after their timing and power have been corrected. This two-stage access guarantees that the mobiles perform the call initialization while synchronized on an assigned, non-random access channel, thereby reducing the resources and delays required for call initialization. Additionally, by using a set of generic signals in the timing and access intervals, the base station need only search a small set of signals in some particular intervals, thus simplifying the search procedure for random access.

[0037] It is possible that more than one mobile will use the same access signal in the same timing and access interval. To handle such cases, the base stations and mobiles can use a combination of collision detection and/or random backoff and random signal selection schemes. In collision detection, the base station searches for the presence of more than one of the same access signals in the same timing and access interval. In the event that a collision is detected, a negative acknowledgment or no acknowledgment can be transmitted on the broadcast channel. A specific collision alert signal can also be sent.

[0038] Mobiles that do not receive acknowledgments or receive negative acknowledgments, can re-attempt access in subsequent timing and access intervals. To reduce the probability of repeated collisions on subsequent attempts, each mobile can randomly select a new access signal from the designated access signal set. Additionally, in a manner similar to that of a conventional slotted ALOHA multi-access technique, the mobiles can exercise a random backoff between access attempts.

[0039] In addition to collisions, another reason that acknowledgments may not be transmitted may be because the access signal from the mobile has not been received with sufficient power. Mobiles should therefore increase their transmission power in the subsequent access attempts. However, in the case where mobiles receive a specific collision alert, the power increase may not be necessary.

[0040] In certain circumstances, collision detection may be difficult for the base station to perform. For example, if the delay spread is large, copies of the same signal sent by multiple mobiles can be confused with multipath copies from one mobile. When collisions occur and are not detected, more than one mobile may begin the second stage of access on the same assigned channel. To detect this error, the base station and mobiles can perform two possible tests.

[0041] First, the base station may perform an error-detection coding check on the data on the assigned uplink channel. If more than one mobile has used the same channel with similar power, the data on the uplink channel is likely to be corrupted and fail the check. In this case, the base station can transmit a signal directing all mobiles to drop the channels, and the mobiles can re-start the access procedure with appropriate random backoff and random signal selection described previously.

[0042] As an additional check, mobiles can transmit a unique identification in the call initialization on the assigned uplink channel, and the base station can re-transmit the received identification back to the mobile in the downlink. A mobile can thereby confirm that it is the intended user of the assigned channels. If more than one mobile uses the channel, but one is received with much higher power, the base station will receive and feedback only the dominant mobile's identification. In this way, the non-dominant mobiles will not receive their identification and will drop off the channel and re-start the access procedure with appropriate random backoff and random signal selection as described previously.

Re-synchronization

[0043] After acquiring initial channels and timing, mobiles will need to continually re-synchronize to track changes in the propagation delay and timing drifts between the mobile and the base station. For re-synchronization, a mobile can transmit a pre-determined timing re-synchronization signal to the base station in a pre-determined timing and access interval. The base station can measure the arrival time of the signal, and communicate an appropriate timing correction back to the mobile in a downlink channel.

[0044] Re-synchronization may use a subset of the timing and access intervals, which is separate from those used for initial timing synchronization and access control. Alternatively, re-synchronization and initial access control may use the same timing and access intervals but with different sets of signals.

[0045] The frequency of re-synchronization need only be sufficient to cover the maximum possible clock drift and change in round-trip propagation delay. Consequently, all mobiles will not need to re-synchronize in every timing and access interval. By re-synchronizing only a small number of mobiles in each timing and access interval, each mobile that does re-synchronize is free to use a larger bandwidth signal for more accurate timing estimation. In addition, the reduced number of mobiles re-synchronizing in the timing and access interval frees bandwidth for access signals, if re-synchronization and initial access control use the same timing and access intervals.

[0046] Each mobile's re-synchronization schedule, i.e., assignment of timing re-synchronization signals and timing and access intervals, can be determined in the call initialization. Moreover, the base station can also explicitly request a re-synchronization from the mobile if necessary. In this case, the base station sends to the mobile a re-synchronization request in the downlink, along with the assignment of a timing and access interval and a re-synchronization signal for the mobile to carry out re-synchronization.

[0047] FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a simple re-synchronization schedule in which the timing and access intervals for the mobile's re-synchronization recur periodically. Every mobile, when entering the system, is as-

signed to one of *M* groups. In each timing interval, a particular one of the *M* groups of mobiles is synchronized (as indicated by the solid black timing slots), while the other *M* - 1 groups suspend their transmission (as indicated by the shaded timing slots). The groups to be synchronized may be selected, e.g., in a round robin manner, i.e., group 1 is synchronized in timing interval 1, group 2 in interval 2, etc., with the synchronization cycle repeating every *M* timing intervals. Numerous other resynchronization schedules may be used in conjunction with the present invention, and will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Base Station and Mobile Implementation

[0048] Examples of particular arrangements of processing elements suitable for implementing the above-described illustrative embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to FIGS. 2 and 3. It should be understood that these are examples only, and many other arrangements could be used.

[0049] FIG. 2 shows a mobile uplink access and synchronization system 100. The system 100 resides in a mobile, and is responsible for channel acquisition and timing synchronization signaling for that mobile. The system 100 also adjusts the uplink symbol clock based on timing offset measurements from a base station. The system 100 comprises a sync signal insertion unit 102, a timing and access signal database 104, a variable time advance unit 106, and a clock offset adjustment unit 110.

[0050] The sync signal insertion unit 102 inserts the timing and access signals into the transmit (TX) data stream. The location of the intervals is indicated by the timing and access interval indicator, which is assumed in this example to be derived from the downlink timing. The timing and access signals are stored in the timing and access signal database 104.

[0051] The mobile's uplink timing is derived in the variable time advance unit 106 and clock offset adjustment unit 110. The receive (RX) symbol clock is an input to the variable time advance unit 106, and is derived from the base station downlink. The variable timing offset advance unit 106 generates the TX clock by advancing the RX clock by a variable time offset. The TX clock has the same frequency as the RX clock, but is offset in time to insure that the mobile's data arrives at the base station at the desired time.

[0052] The clock offset adjustment unit 110 selects the timing offset based on the timing error estimates received from the base station. The clock offset adjustment circuit 110 may attempt to filter spurious error estimates due to poor estimation at the base station, or corruption of the feedback signal.

[0053] To acquire an uplink channel, a mobile transmits an access signal in any timing and access interval, using the sync signal insertion unit 102. The timing and access intervals in this example occur periodically at times which can be determined from the downlink frame and symbol timing. In each acquisition attempt, the access signal is randomly selected from one of a group of signals which are common to all mobiles and known by all base stations. The access signal set is stored in the timing and access signal database 104. Each base station scans the timing and access intervals for access signals to determine if any mobile sent an access request for an uplink channel.

[0054] If an access is detected and the access granted, the base station transmits an access acknowledgment in a reserved signaling channel in the downlink along with an uplink channel assignment, an initial timing and power correction, and any other call set-up information. After a mobile is granted an uplink channel, and continually during its use of the channel, the mobile periodically transmits certain timing synchronization signals to the base station. The timing synchronization signals are inserted by the sync signal insertion unit 102 into the TX data stream in the designated timing and access intervals. Each mobile connected to the base station is assigned a unique timing signal and timing interval in which it transmits. The signal and interval assignment can be given by the base station to the mobile during the call set-up.

[0055] The base station estimates the arrival time of the timing synchronization signal to determine the timing error between the desired and actual arrival time of the mobile's transmission. The estimated timing error is communicated back to the clock offset adjustment unit 110 of the mobile via the downlink. The clock offset adjustment unit 110 adjusts the timing offset by the timing error estimate. The TX clock is advanced from the RX symbol clock by the timing offset in variable time advance unit 106 to insure that the mobile's data arrives at the base station at the desired time. The clock offset adjustment unit 110 may also attempt to filter out spurious timing error estimates due to poor estimation at the base station, or corruption of the feedback signal.

[0056] FIG. 3 shows a base station uplink access and synchronization system 120. The base station system 120 resides in each base station of the wireless system and is responsible for detecting access requests and estimating the timing offset from synchronization signal. The data from the timing and access intervals is first removed from the RX data stream in a timing access interval data removal unit 122. A signal delay and power estimation unit 125 scans the data in each interval for the presence of access signals. The access signals to search for can be pre-stored in a timing and access signal database 128. The presence of an access signal indicates an uplink access request from a mobile, and the detection of an access request in detection element 130 can be forwarded to the base station access control logic as shown.

[0057] The access and synchronization system 120 also estimates the arrival time of each timing synchronization signal As with the access signals, the timing signals can also be pre-stored in the database 128. The timing synchronization signals' arrival time estimates are used

to determine the error between the desired and actual arrival time of the mobile's transmission. A delay estimate and a power estimate from signal delay and power estimation unit 125 are transmitted to the mobiles. The assignments of the timing signals to the mobiles may be stored in a database which is updated by the access control logic. Information from such a database may be used to ensure that the measured timing errors can be sent back to the correct mobiles in the downlink.

[0058] The above-described embodiment is illustrative only. Alternative embodiments may be implemented, e.g., with a form of collision detection suitable for handling data traffic. In addition, the assumptions made above with regard to the analysis of the illustrative embodiment are for purposes of simplicity and clarity of illustration, and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention. The invention can of course be implemented in systems in which these assumptions do not apply. Furthermore, many different types, arrangements and configurations of processing elements other than those described herein may be used to implement the invention. These and other alternative embodiments within the scope of the appended claims will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

Claims

1. A method of uplink communication between a mobile station and a base station of a wireless communication system, the method comprising the step of:

transmitting at least one of an uplink access signal and an uplink timing synchronization signal from the mobile station to the base station **CHARACTERIZED IN THAT** said at least one signal is transmitted in a particular one of a set of recurring intervals in which regular uplink data transmission from at least one additional mobile station to the base station is at least partially suspended.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless system comprises an orthogonal frequency division multiplexed (OFDM) system.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of periodically recurring intervals comprise a set of time slots that are synchronized to a downlink established between the base station and the mobile station.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the base station in response to a generic uplink access signal assigns an uplink channel to the mobile station and subsequently transmits power control and synchronization information to the mobile station, such that the mobile station initiates a call set-up process over the assigned uplink channel.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein uplink synchronization is conducted on a group-by-group basis in which each of a plurality of mobile stations is assigned to one of *M* groups, and in each of at least a subset of the intervals, each of the mobile stations in a particular one of the *M* groups of mobile stations transmits an uplink timing synchronization signal, while each of the mobile stations in the other *M* - 1 groups suspends uplink transmission, and wherein the uplink synchronization cycle repeats every *M* intervals.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein at least a subset of a plurality of mobile stations adjust their uplink transmission times such that they are received synchronized at the base station.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein downlink and uplink timing are synchronized at the base station, and the mobile station initially synchronizes to the base station downlink, such that the mobile station is initially synchronized with a timing error of at most one round-trip propagation delay.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the mobile station obtains the initial synchronization prior to acquiring an uplink channel, and remains synchronized in this manner even when access is not immediately required.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein in order to gain access, the mobile station transmits, in a timing and access interval, one of a set of designated access signals which are common for and known to all mobile stations attempting access to the base station.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein in each of a plurality of timing and access intervals, the base station searches for the presence of a transmitted access signal to determine if a mobile station is attempting access, and after detecting an access, utilizes control logic to determine whether the access can be granted.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein in response to a successfully detected access signal, the base station is configured to broadcast an acknowledgment or a negative acknowledgment in a downlink channel known to each of a plurality of mobile stations, wherein the acknowledgment contains an uplink and/or downlink channel assignment for the mobile station to initiate a call set-up process.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the base station is operative to estimate the received signal power and arrival time of an access signal of the mobile station, such that if the access is granted, the base station can send initial power and timing correction information in the access acknowledgment.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein access can be denied if the access signal was not received with sufficient power to ensure that the timing estimation has a desired level of accuracy.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile station is operative to perform identification, authentication and call set-up process initiation operations on assigned uplink and downlink channels after power levels and timing have been corrected via interaction with the base station.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the base station performs a collision detection operation in order to detect a situation in which more than one mobile station has transmitted the same access signal in the same timing and access interval, and further wherein if a collision is detected, the access can be denied, and the base station broadcasts a specific collision alert signal on a downlink channel known to a plurality of mobile stations.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein in response to a negative acknowledgment or the lack of an acknowledgment the mobile station is operative to retransmit an access signal in a later timing and access interval.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein in order to reduce the probability of repeated collisions, each of a plurality of mobile stations are operative to select subsequent access signals from an access signal set in a manner which is independent of previous access signals selected by a particular mobile station.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein a plurality of mobile stations are operative to utilize a random back-off procedure to determine the time between subsequent access attempts, and to transmit subsequent access signals at a higher power in the event of a failure of a previous access attempt.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein when collision detection is not performed, or when the detection is not fully reliable, the base station is operative to perform a reliability test on data associated with the assigned channels to determine if more than one mobile station has attempted to use the channel.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile station is operative to send a unique identification as part of a call set-up process, and the base station is operative to re-transmit the unique identification back to the mobile station in a downlink so that the mobile station can confirm that it is the intended user of the channel.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein in order to track drifts in timing and to improve initial synchronization, the mobile station is operative to continually re-synchronize throughout a period for which it is connected to the base station.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile station is operative to re-synchronize by transmitting a predetermined timing re-synchronization signal in a designated timing and access interval, and further wherein the base station is operative to measure the arrival time of the signal, and deliver an appropriate timing correction back to the mobile station in a downlink.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein in each of a plurality of timing and access intervals, only a designated subset of a set of mobile stations connected to the base station transmit re-synchronization signals, so as to permit the mobile stations to use wider band signals for re-synchronization than would otherwise be possible, and to free up additional bandwidth for the access signals.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile station is assigned a re-synchronization schedule comprising a sequence of intervals and re-synchronization signals to use during a call set-up process, and further wherein the re-synchronization schedule ensures that timing re-synchronization is sufficiently frequent to cover a maximum clock drift and change in round-trip propagation delay between successive re-synchronizations.

25. The method of claim 1 wherein the base station is operative to request an additional re-synchronization for a particular mobile station if the base station determines that such a re-synchronization is required.

26. An apparatus for use in a wireless communication system, the apparatus comprising:

a mobile station operative to transmit at least one of an uplink access signal and an uplink timing synchronization signal to a base station of the system **CHARACTERIZED IN THAT** said at least one signal is transmitted in a particular one of a set of recurring intervals in which regular uplink data transmission from at least one additional mobile station to the base station is at least partially suspended.

27. A method of uplink communication between a mobile station and a base station of a wireless communication system, the method comprising the step of:

receiving in the base station at least one of an uplink access signal and an uplink timing synchronization signal **CHARACTERIZED IN THAT** said at least one signal is transmitted from the mobile station in a particular one of a set of

recurring intervals in which regular uplink data transmission from at least one additional mobile station to the base station is at least partially suspended.

28. An apparatus for use in a wireless communication system, the apparatus comprising:

a base station operative to receive at least one of an uplink access signal and an uplink timing synchronization signal transmitted from a mobile station of the system **CHARACTERIZED IN THAT** said at least one signal is transmitted in a particular one of a set of recurring intervals in which regular uplink data transmission from at least one additional mobile station to the base station is at least partially suspended.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Aufwärtsstreckenkommunikation zwischen einer Mobilstation und einer Basisstation eines drahtlosen Kommunikationssystems, wobei das Verfahren den folgenden Schritt umfaßt:

Senden eines Aufwärtsstrecken-Zugangssignals und/oder eines Aufwärtsstrecken-Timing-Synchronisationssignals von der Mobilstation zu der Basisstation, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das mindestens eine Signal in einem bestimmten einer Menge von wiederkehrenden Intervallen gesendet wird, worin die reguläre Aufwärtsstrecken-Datenübertragung von mindestens einer zusätzlichen Mobilstation zu der Basisstation mindestens teilweise suspendiert wird.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das drahtlose System ein System mit Orthogonal-Frequenzmultiplex (OFDM) umfaßt.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Menge periodisch wiederkehrender Intervalle eine Menge von Zeitschlitzen umfaßt, die mit einer zwischen der Basisstation und der Mobilstation hergestellten Abwärtsstrecke synchronisiert sind.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Basisstation als Reaktion auf ein generisches Aufwärtsstrecken-Zugangssignal der Mobilstation einen Aufwärtsstreckenkanal zuweist und danach Leistungsregel- und Synchronisationsinformationen zu der Mobilstation sendet, dergestalt, daß die Mobilstation einen Verbindungsaufbauprozeß über den zugewiesenen Aufwärtsstreckenkanal einleitet.

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aufwärtsstreckensynchronisation gruppenweise durchgeführt wird, wobei jede einer Vielzahl von Mobilstationen einer von M Gruppen zugewiesen wird und in jedem mindestens einer Teilmenge der Intervalle jede der Mobilstationen in einer bestimmten der M Gruppen von Mobilstationen ein Aufwärtsstrecken-Timing-Synchronisationssignal sendet, während jede der Mobilstationen in den anderen M-1 Gruppen die Aufwärtsstreckenübertragung suspendiert, und wobei sich der Aufwärtsstreckensynchronisationszyklus alle M Intervalle wiederholt.

6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei mindestens eine Teilmenge einer Vielzahl von Mobilstationen ihre Aufwärtsstreckensendezeiten so einstellt, daß sie synchron in der Basisstation empfangen werden.

7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Abwärtsstrecken- und Aufwärtsstrecken-Timing in der Basisstation synchronisiert werden und sich die Mobilstation anfänglich mit der Basisstations-Abwärtsstrecke synchronisiert, dergestalt, daß die Mobilstation anfänglich mit einem Timing-Fehler von höchstens einer Umlaufzeitverzögerung synchronisiert wird.

8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, wobei die Mobilstation die anfängliche Synchronisation vor der Akquisition eines Aufwärtsstreckenkanals erlangt und auf diese Weise auch dann synchronisiert bleibt, wenn der Zugang nicht sofort benötigt wird.

9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Mobilstation, um Zugang zu erhalten, in einem Timing- und Zugangsintervall eines einer Menge designierter Zugangssignale sendet, die allen Mobilstationen, die versuchen, Zugang zu der Basisstation zu erhalten, gemeinsam und bekannt sind.

10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei in jedem einer Vielzahl von Timing- und Zugangsintervallen die Basisstation nach der Anwesenheit eines gesendeten Zugangssignals sucht, um zu bestimmen, ob eine Mobilstation versucht, Zugang zu erhalten, und nach Detektion eines Zugangs Steuerlogik verwendet, um zu bestimmen, ob der Zugang gewährt werden kann.

11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Basisstation dafür konfiguriert ist, als Reaktion auf ein erfolgreich detektiertes Zugangssignal eine Bestätigung oder eine negative Bestätigung in einem jedem einer Vielzahl von Mobilstationen bekannten Abwärtsstrekkenkanal rundzusenden, wobei die Bestätigung eine Aufwärtsstrecken- und/oder Abwärtsstrecken-Kanalzuweisung für die Mobilstation zum Einleiten eines Verbindungsaufbauprozesses enthält.

12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Basisstation

wirkt, um die Empfangssignalleistung und Ankunftszeit eines Zugangssignals der Mobilstation zu schätzen, dergestalt, daß, wenn der Zugang gewährt wird, die Basisstation Anfangsleistungs- und -timing-Korrekturinformationen in der Zugangsbestätigung senden kann.

13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei Zugang verweigert werden kann, wenn das Zugangssignal nicht mit ausreichender Leistung empfangen wurde, um sicherzustellen, daß die Timing-Schätzung einen gewünschten Genauigkeitsgrad aufweist.

14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Mobilstation wirkt, um Operationen der Identifikation, Authentifikation und der Verbindungsaufbauprozeßeinleitung auf zugewiesenen Aufwärtsstrecken- und Abwärtsstreckenkanälen auszuwählen, nachdem Leistungspegel und Timing über Interaktion mit der Basisstation korrigiert wurden.

15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Basisstation eine Kollisionsdetektionsoperation ausführt, um eine Situation zu detektieren, in der mehr als eine Mobilstation dasselbe Zugangssignal in demselben Timing- und Zugangsintervall gesendet hat, und wobei ferner, wenn eine Kollision detektiert wird, der Zugang verweigert werden kann und die Basisstation ein spezifisches Kollisionswarnsignal auf einem Abwärtsstreckenkanal rundsendet, der einer Vielzahl von Mobilstationen bekannt ist.

16. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Mobilstation als Reaktion auf eine negative Bestätigung oder das Fehlen einer Bestätigung der Mobilstation wirkt, um in einem späteren Timing- und Zugangsintervall ein Zugangssignal erneut zu senden.

17. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei, um die Wahrscheinlichkeit wiederholter Kollisionen zu reduzieren, jede einer Vielzahl von Mobilstationen wirkt, um nachfolgende Zugangssignale aus einer Zugangssignalmenge auf eine Weise auszuwählen, die von vorherigen durch eine bestimmte Mobilstation ausgewählten Zugangssignalen unabhängig ist.

18. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei eine Vielzahl von Mobilstationen wirkt, um eine Zufalls-zurückweichprozedur zu benutzen, um die Zeit zwischen nachfolgenden Zugangsversuchen zu bestimmen und um nachfolgende Zugangssignale im Fall eines Fehlschlags eines vorherigen Zugangsversuchs mit einer höheren Leistung zu senden.

19. Verfahren nach Anspruch 15, wobei, wenn keine Kollisionsdetektion ausgeführt wird oder wenn die Detektion nicht völlig zuverlässig ist, die Basisstation wirkt, um eine Zuverlässigkeitsprüfung an mit den zugewiesenen Kanälen assoziierten Daten auszuführen, um zu bestimmen, ob mehr als eine Mobilstation versucht hat, den Kanal zu benutzen.

20. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Mobilstation wirkt, um als Teil eines Verbindungsaufbauprozesses eine eindeutige Identifikation zu senden und die Basisstation wirkt, um die eindeutige Identifikation in einer Abwärtsstrecke zu der Mobilstation wieder zurückzusenden, so daß die Mobilstation bestätigen kann, daß sie der beabsichtigte Benutzer des Kanals ist.

21. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei, um Timing-Drifts zu verfolgen und um die anfängliche Synchronisation zu verbessern, die Mobilstation wirkt, um sich kontinuierlich während eines gesamten Zeitraums, für den sie mit der Basisstation verbunden ist, neu zu synchronisieren.

22. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Mobilstation wirkt, um sich neu zu synchronisieren, indem sie ein vorbestimmtes Timing-Neusynchronisationssignal in einem designierten Timing- und Zugangsintervall sendet, und wobei ferner die Basisstation wirkt, um die Ankunftszeit des Signals zu messen und eine entsprechende Timing-Korrektur in einer Abwärtsstrecke an die Mobilstation zurückzuliefern.

23. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei in jedem einer Vielzahl von Timing- und Zugangsintervallen nur eine designierte Teilmenge einer Menge von Mobilstationen, die mit der Basisstation verbunden sind, Neusynchronisationssignale sendet, um es so den Mobilstationen zu gestatten, breitbandigere Signale für die Neusynchronisation zu verwenden, als andernfalls möglich wäre, und zusätzliche Bandbreite für die Zugangssignale freizugeben.

24. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Mobilstation ein Neusynchronisations-Ablaufplan zugewiesen wird, der eine Sequenz von Intervallen und Neusynchronisationssignale zur Verwendung während eines Verbindungsaufbauprozesses umfaßt, und wobei ferner der Neusynchronisations-Ablaufplan sicherstellt, daß die Timing-Neusynchronisation häufig genug ist, um ein Maximum an Taktdriften und Änderung der Umlaufzeitverzögerung zwischen sukzessiven Neusynchronisationen abzudecken.

25. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Basisstation wirkt, um eine zusätzliche Neusynchronisation für eine bestimmte Mobilstation anzufordern, wenn die Basisstation bestimmt, daß eine solche Neusynchronisation erforderlich ist.

26. Vorrichtung zur Verwendung in einem drahtlosen Kommunikationssystem, wobei die Vorrichtung fol-

gendes umfaßt:

eine Mobilstation, die wirkt, um ein Aufwärtsstrecken-Zugangssignal und/oder ein Aufwärtsstrecken-Timing-Synchronisationssignal zu einer Basisstation des Systems zu senden, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** mindestens ein Signal in einem bestimmten einer Menge von wiederkehrenden Intervallen gesendet wird, worin die reguläre Aufwärtsstrecken-Datenübertragung von mindestens einer zusätzlichen Mobilstation zu der Basisstation mindestens teilweise suspendiert wird.

27. Verfahren zur Aufwärtsstrecken-Kommunikation zwischen einer Mobilstation und einer Basisstation eines drahtlosen Kommunikationssystems, wobei das Verfahren den folgenden Schritt umfaßt:

Empfangen eines Aufwärtsstrecken-Zugangssignals und/oder eines Aufwärtsstrecken-Timing-Synchronisationssignals in der Basisstation, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das mindestens eine Signal von der Mobilstation in einem bestimmten einer Menge von wiederkehrenden Intervallen gesendet wird, worin reguläre Aufwärtsstrecken-Datenübertragung von mindestens einer zusätzlichen Mobilstation zu der Basisstation mindestens teilweise suspendiert ist.

28. Vorrichtung zur Verwendung in einem drahtlosen Kommunikationssystem, wobei die Vorrichtung folgendes umfaßt:

eine Basisstation, die wirkt, um ein Aufwärtsstrecken-Zugangssignal und/oder ein Aufwärtsstrecken-Timing-Synchronisationssignal zu empfangen, das von einer Mobilstation des Systems gesendet wird, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** das mindestens eine Signal in einem bestimmten einer Menge von wiederkehrenden Intervallen gesendet wird, worin reguläre Aufwärtsstrekken-Datenübertragung von mindestens einer zusätzlichen Mobilstation zu der Basisstation mindestens teilweise suspendiert ist.

Revendications

1. Procédé de communication amont entre une station mobile et une station de base d'un système de communication sans fil, le procédé comprenant l'étape de :

transmission d'au moins l'un d'un signal d'accès amont et d'un signal de synchronisation de cadencement amont depuis la station mobile vers la station de base **CARACTERISE EN CE QUE** ledit au moins un signal est transmis dans un intervalle particulier d'un ensemble d'intervalles récurrents dans lequel la transmission régulière de données amont depuis au moins une station mobile supplémentaire vers la station de base est au moins partiellement suspendue.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le système sans fil comprend un système de multiplexage par répartition orthogonale de la fréquence (MROF).

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'ensemble d'intervalles périodiquement récurrents comprend un ensemble de tranches de temps qui sont synchronisées sur une liaison descendante établie entre la station de base et la station mobile.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la station de base en réponse à un signal d'accès amont générique assigne un canal amont à la station mobile et transmet ultérieurement des informations de commande de puissance et de synchronisation à la station mobile, de telle sorte que la station mobile lance un processus d'établissement d'appel sur le canal amont assigné.

5. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la synchronisation amont est effectuée groupe par groupe où chacune d'une pluralité de stations mobiles est assignée à l'un de *M* groupes, et dans chacun d'au moins un sous-ensemble des intervalles, chacune des stations mobiles dans un groupe particulier des *M* groupes de stations mobiles transmet un signal de synchronisation de cadencement amont, tandis que chacune des stations mobiles dans les *M* - 1 autres groupes suspend la transmission amont, et dans lequel le cycle de synchronisation amont se répète tous les *M* intervalles.

6. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel au moins un sous-ensemble d'une pluralité de stations mobiles règlent leurs temps de transmission amont de façon à ce qu'elles soient reçues synchronisées au niveau de la station de base.

7. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le cadencement aval et le cadencement amont sont synchronisés au niveau de la station de base, et la station mobile se synchronise initialement sur la liaison descendante de la station de base, de telle sorte que la station mobile soit synchronisée initialement avec une erreur de cadencement d'au plus un temps de propagation aller-retour.

8. Procédé selon la revendication 7, dans lequel la station mobile obtient la synchronisation initiale avant d'acquérir un canal amont, et reste ainsi synchronisée même quand l'accès n'est pas immédiatement

requis.

9. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel afin d'obtenir l'accès, la station mobile transmet, dans un intervalle de cadencement et d'accès, l'un d'un ensemble de signaux d'accès désignés qui sont communs à toutes les stations mobiles essayant d'accéder à la station de base, et connus de celles-ci.

10. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel dans chacun d'une pluralité d'intervalles de cadencement et d'accès, la station de base recherche la présence d'un signal d'accès transmis afin de déterminer si une station mobile tente un accès, et après avoir détecté un accès, utilise une logique de commande pour déterminer si l'accès peut être accordé ou non.

11. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel en réponse à un signal d'accès correctement détecté, la station de base est configurée pour diffuser un acquittement ou un acquittement négatif dans un canal aval vers chacune d'une pluralité de stations mobiles, dans lequel l'accusé de réception contient une assignation de canal amont et/ou aval pour la station mobile lui permettant de lancer un processus d'établissement d'appel.

12. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la station de base fonctionne pour estimer la puissance du signal reçu et le temps d'arrivée d'un signal d'accès de la station mobile, de telle sorte que si l'accès est consenti, la station de base puisse envoyer des informations de puissance et de correction de cadencement initiales dans l'acquittement d'accès.

13. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'accès peut être refusé si le signal d'accès n'a pas été reçu avec une puissance suffisante pour garantir que l'estimation de cadencement a un niveau souhaité de précision.

14. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la station mobile fonctionne pour effectuer des opérations de processus d'identification, d'authentification et d'établissement d'appel sur des canaux amont et aval assignés après que les niveaux de puissance et le cadencement ont été corrigés par interaction avec la station de base.

15. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la station de base effectue une opération de détection de collision afin de détecter une situation dans laquelle plus d'une station mobile a transmis le même signal d'accès dans le même intervalle de cadencement et d'accès, et dans lequel en outre si une collision est détectée, l'accès peut être refusé, et la station de base diffuse un signal d'alerte de collision spécifique sur un canal de liaison descendante connu d'une pluralité de stations mobiles.

16. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel en réponse à un acquittement négatif ou à l'absence d'un acquittement, la station mobile fonctionne pour retransmettre un signal d'accès dans un intervalle de cadencement et d'accès ultérieur.

17. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel afin de réduire la probabilité de collisions répétées, chacune d'une pluralité de stations mobiles fonctionne pour sélectionner des signaux d'accès ultérieurs parmi un ensemble de signaux d'accès d'une manière qui est indépendante de signaux d'accès antérieurs sélectionnés par une station mobile particulière.

18. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel une pluralité de stations mobiles fonctionne pour utiliser une procédure d'attente aléatoire afin de déterminer le temps entre des tentatives d'accès ultérieures, et transmettre des signaux d'accès ultérieurs à une puissance supérieure en cas d'échec d'une tentative d'accès antérieure.

19. Procédé selon la revendication 15, dans lequel quand la détection de collision n'est pas effectuée, ou quand la détection n'est pas totalement fiable, la station de base fonctionne pour effectuer un test de fiabilité sur les données associées aux canaux assignés afin de déterminer si plus d'une station mobile a tenté d'utiliser le canal.

20. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la station mobile fonctionne pour envoyer une identification unique dans le cadre d'un processus d'établissement d'appel, et la station de base fonctionne pour retransmettre l'identification unique en retour à la station de base sur une liaison descendante de telle sorte que la station mobile puisse confirmer qu'elle est l'utilisateur prévu du canal.

21. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel afin de suivre les dérives de cadencement et améliorer la synchronisation initiale, la station mobile fonctionne pour se resynchroniser continuellement durant une période pendant laquelle elle est connectée à la station de base.

22. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la station de base fonctionne pour resynchroniser en transmettant un signal de resynchronisation de cadencement prédéterminé dans un intervalle de cadencement et d'accès désigné, et en outre dans lequel la station de base fonctionne pour mesurer le temps d'arrivée du signal, et délivrer une correction de cadencement appropriée de retour à la station mobile dans une liaison descendante.

23. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel dans chacun d'une pluralité d'intervalles de cadencement et d'accès, seul un sous-ensemble désigné d'un ensemble de stations mobiles connectées à la station de base transmet des signaux de resynchronisation, de façon à permettre aux stations mobiles d'utiliser pour leur resynchronisation des signaux d'une bande plus large que cela ne serait possible autrement, et à libérer une bande passante supplémentaire pour les signaux d'accès.

24. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel un programme de synchronisation comprenant une séquence d'intervalles et de signaux de resynchronisation à utiliser durant un processus d'établissement d'appel est assigné à la station mobile, et en outre dans lequel le programme de resynchronisation garantit que la resynchronisation de cadencement est suffisamment fréquente pour couvrir une dérive d'horloge maximum et un changement de temps de propagation aller-retour entre des resynchronisations successives.

25. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la station de base fonctionne pour demander une resynchronisation supplémentaire d'une station mobile particulière si la station de base détermine qu'une telle resynchronisation est nécessaire.

26. Appareil destiné à être utilisé dans un système de communication sans fil, l'appareil comprenant :

une station mobile fonctionnant pour transmettre au moins l'un d'un signal d'accès amont et d'un signal de synchronisation de cadencement amont à une station de base du système **CARACTERISE EN CE QUE** ledit au moins un signal est transmis dans un intervalle particulier d'un ensemble d'intervalles récurrents dans lequel la transmission régulière de données amont depuis au moins une station mobile supplémentaire vers la station de base est au moins partiellement suspendue.

27. Procédé de communication amont entre une station mobile et une station de base d'un système de communication sans fil, le procédé comprenant l'étape de :

réception dans la station de base d'au moins l'un d'un signal d'accès amont et d'un signal de synchronisation de cadencement amont **CARACTERISE EN CE QUE** ledit au moins un signal est transmis depuis la station mobile dans un intervalle particulier d'un ensemble d'intervalles récurrents dans lequel la transmission régulière de données amont depuis au moins une station mobile supplémentaire vers la station de base est au moins partiellement suspendue.

28. Appareil destiné à être utilisé dans un système de communication sans fil, l'appareil comprenant :

une station de base fonctionnant pour recevoir au moins l'un d'un signal d'accès amont et d'un signal de synchronisation de cadencement amont transmis depuis une station mobile du système **CARACTERISE EN CE QUE** ledit au moins un signal est transmis dans un intervalle particulier d'un ensemble d'intervalles récurrents dans lequel la transmission régulière de données amont depuis au moins une station mobile supplémentaire à la station de base est au moins partiellement suspendue.

FIG. 1

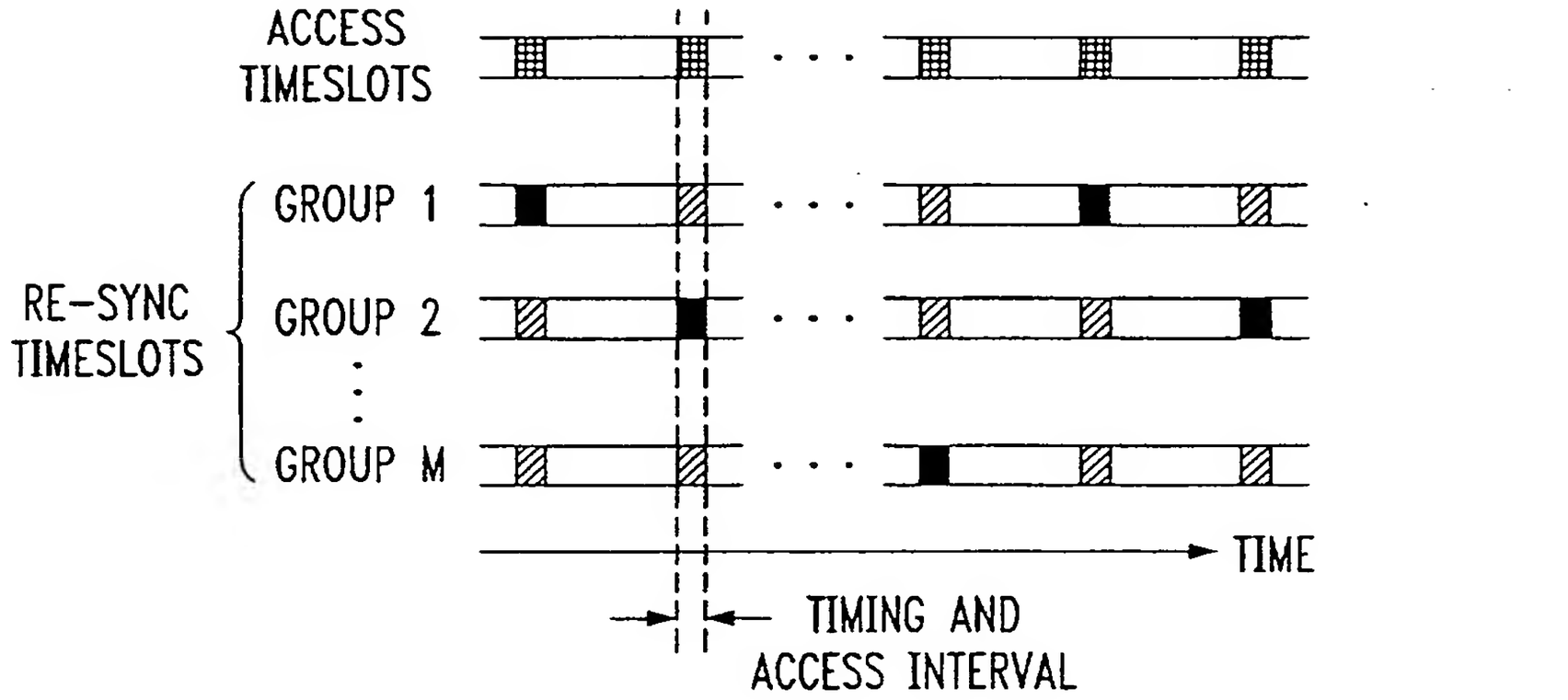

ACCESS TIMESLOTS
RE-SYNC TIMESLOTS
GROUP 1
GROUP 2
GROUP M
TIME
TIMING AND ACCESS INTERVAL

FIG. 2

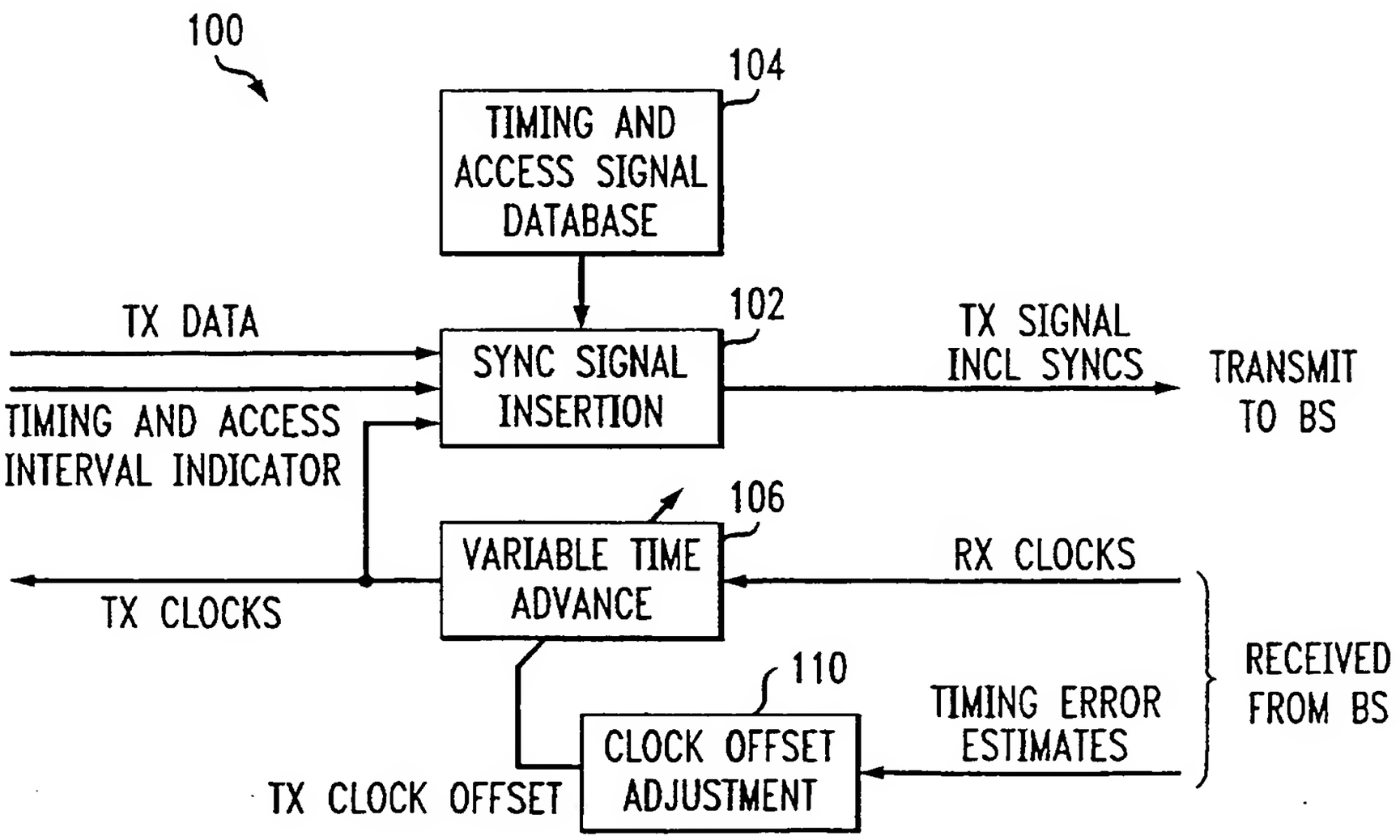
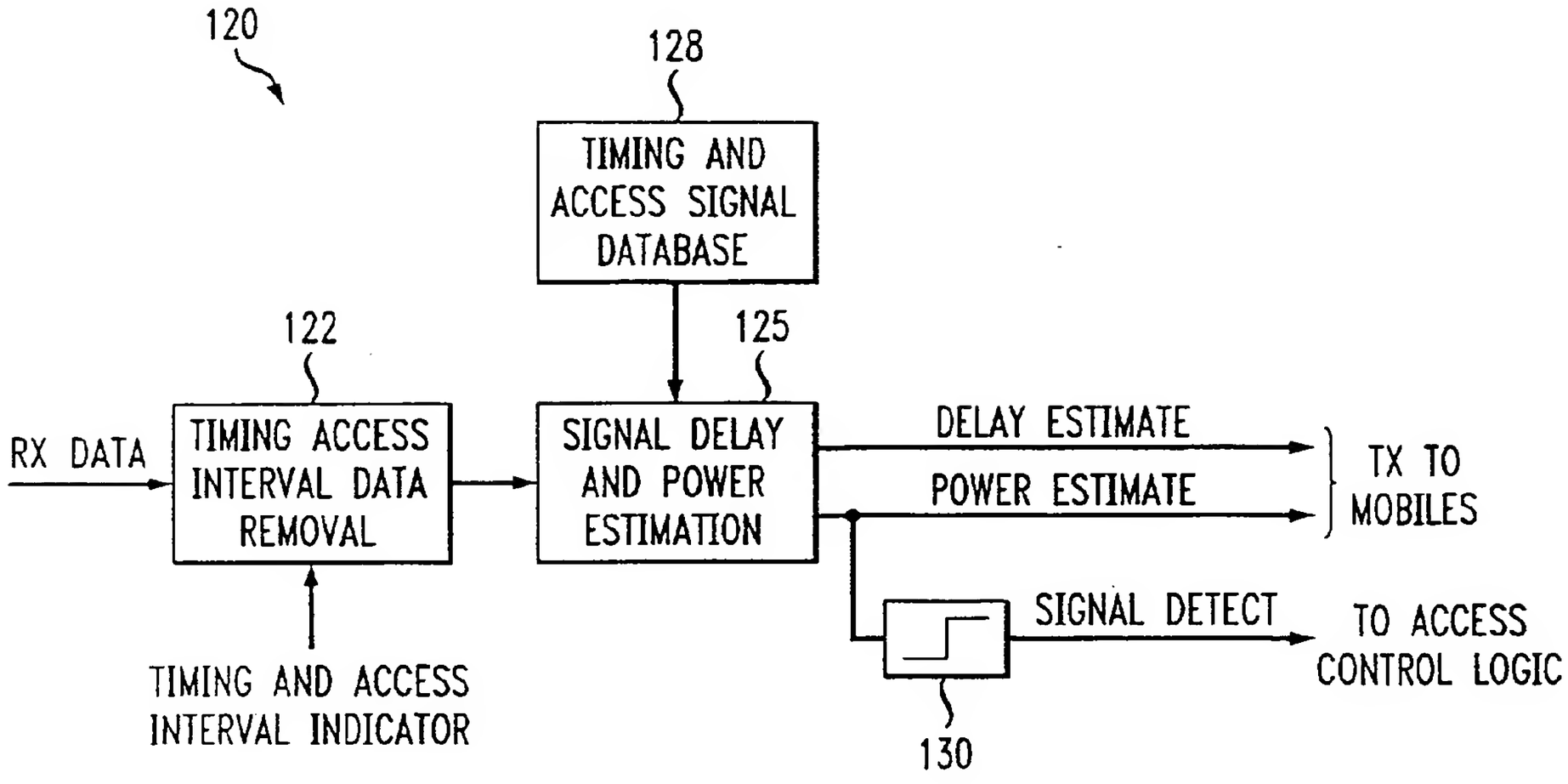

100
104
TIMING AND ACCESS SIGNAL DATABASE
102
SYNC SIGNAL INSERTION
TX DATA
TIMING AND ACCESS INTERVAL INDICATOR
TX SIGNAL INCL SYNCS
TRANSMIT TO BS
106
VARIABLE TIME ADVANCE
TX CLOCKS
RX CLOCKS
110
CLOCK OFFSET ADJUSTMENT
TX CLOCK OFFSET
TIMING ERROR ESTIMATES
RECEIVED FROM BS

FIG. 3


120
128
TIMING AND ACCESS SIGNAL DATABASE
122
125
RX DATA
TIMING ACCESS INTERVAL DATA REMOVAL
SIGNAL DELAY AND POWER ESTIMATION
DELAY ESTIMATE
POWER ESTIMATE
TX TO MOBILES
SIGNAL DETECT
TO ACCESS CONTROL LOGIC
TIMING AND ACCESS INTERVAL INDICATOR
130

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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